

Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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REVISED

KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT DECREASED TO 500 POUNDS PER DAY FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE

The Fishery Bulletin issued February 24, 2005, indicated that the trip limit for the king mackerel fishery would be reduced on March 25, 2005. <u>The correct date for the trip limit reduction is February 25, 2005.</u>

The daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds beginning 12:01 a.m., February 25, 2005, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is reducing the trip limit after determining that 390,234 pounds (or 75 percent) of the 520,312-pound quota has been taken.

From November 1 through March 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone off Collier and Monroe Counties, Florida. This is the area south and west from 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida boundary) to 26° 19.8' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County, Florida, boundary). Beginning April 1, the southern subzone is reduced to the area off Collier County, Florida, between 25° 48' N. lat. and 26° 19.8' N. lat.

The 500-pound daily trip limit will remain in effect until the 520,312-pound quota is reached or through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2005, whichever occurs first.

NMFS is dedicated to protecting and preserving the nation's living marine resources and their habitats through scientific research, management, and enforcement. NMFS provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to customers and recreational opportunities for the American public.

NMFS is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

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NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.